Buford shows up on the farm with a new animal, a chicken. The dogs, normally well restrained around the chickens. But this chicken, they are compelled to chase. The chicken leads them on a chase through the farm. The chase ends with the farm a wreck and Klutin lost in the Silas Marsh, where he encounters by a monster.

Wes’s grandmother arrives at the farm. She’s there to take Wes. Wes has called and asked her to come.

The siblings clean up after the chase. Buford Graphical user interface, application, Word

Description automatically generatedr the Orchard and the dog. He’s convinced it’s a machine for shelling hazelnuts and sets about building it.

Kacie Mel is a scientist at the national laboratory in nearby Fissionbury. She converts one of the assembly robots into an animated humanoid.

They bury the goat, Calla, in the Orchard. There, furngully is overwhelmed by a fragrance emanating from the upturned earth. It fills her with a renewed sense of purpose. She starts to dig but is stopped. She finds an item in the earth. Blind Marnie notices and puts the object in her pocket.

“I’m not afraid of losing him. I know I already have.”

Blind Marnie recognizes the object as a valuable truffle. She now knows the secret of the Orchard. She plots to get Buford and Wes off the farm. She encourages buford to work on the device. He comes under the thrall of a salesman who convinces him to invest in industrial supplies and automation equipment.

Baldy Hooper suspects that the hermit it legendary Nashvanooga Biting Possoms head coach Rusty Banks.

Blind Marnie banishes Wes and Klutin from the Orchard. She recruits the serpent of the Silas Marsh to be its guard. She dispatches wild boars to collect truffles for her. Baldy confronts Blind Marnie about the curse on his son. She convinces him she didn’t put a curse on him. A brief moment of tenderness from Blind Marnie.

Baldy confronts the h ermet at the top of the hill. He insists the man teach his son to kick field goals.

Wes and the farm animals visit the Tall Chestnun Dweller to find a way to defeat the serpent. They are unsuccessful. But they discover the source and limitations of Blind Marnie’s power.

Buford continues to work on his device. The once-quaint workshop is now transformed into a state-of-the-art production facility. The devicide is connected to a large power supply. Buford accidentally shoots holes in the wall with the out-of-control device. Klutin has a plan for how they can defeat Drualisa.

Wes feigns interest in Buford’s work. In the encounter, Wes really does become interested in his Dad.

Wes did not recognize the worksop. The quaint tinker’s nook had been transformed into a state of the art industrial assembly facility of steel mesh caging and Plexiglas enclosures. The concrete floor had been patched and repaired and on i it painted green walkways from which none could deviate but that they wore safety glasses and steel-toed footwear. A robotic arm drew invisible sine waves on a canvas of air

The Redemption Device itself was still recognizeable as a curously assembly of cast-iron, tin and thermoformed polycarbonate, as if an escaped assembly line robot had fled into an antique shop and impregnated a farm implement. Only now it sat on a stainless steel platform at the epicenter of a conveyor system. A robotic arm attached to it was delicately drawing invisible sine waves on a canvas of air.

Buford worked at an electrical relay with a hex wrench. Strain in the wiring kept moving the relay and Buford was clearly frustrated. Beads of sweat formed on his brow.

“Want me to hold that?” Wes offered.

Buford blinked. Who was this strange boy who was offering to be helpful?

“What? Really? Sure, that’d be great!”

Buford turned the wrench. “That should hold it in place. You can let go now.”

Wes climbed up on the bench and sat. He picked up an item.

“What’s this?” he asked.

Buford looked up from the circuitry.

“That? That’s a servo motor. It’ll attach to the swing arm and control the rate of flow.”

“I didn’t know you could do all this stuff.” Wes said. “You must be naturally mechanical.”

“Not hardly. I’m just stubborn. Naturally curious, maybe. When I was a little older than you, there was this old jeep on the farm. I updated the charging system on it. They made a kit. I ended up taking the timing cover off. Didn’t have to. I just wanted to see what was behind it. It wasn’t easy getting that back on.”

“Is that the jeep in the picture with you and mom? The one on Moose Creek by the fishing hole.”

“That very one,” said Buford. He pushed a button and the robotic arm came to a rest. “Only that was Squally Creek. You and me have been there several times.”

“We have?”

“Yeah. Remember? We used to ride up the creek in the side-by-side. I’d let you hold the steering wheel.”

“I do remember,” said Wes. “Did we ever go in the jeep?”

“Nah. Leaked oil too bad from me messing with the timing cover.”

Wes’s smile took Buford back to a time when a smile from Wes wasn’t at all unusual. The distance between that time and now weighed heavy on his heart. His hand went to the flask in his breast pocket. He hesitated, then drew the flask, turned it up and replaced it.

“Mom said you never wanted me,” Wes said. There was no bitterness in his voice. “She said when she told you she was pregnant with me, your eyes went dim and you fell into a funk. Said you only took your flask to poker night before that but then stopped playing poker with your friends and started carrying that flask all the time.”

“That’s not how I remember it at all,” he said. He crossed his arm and absently patted the flask in his breast pocket. “I stopped playing poker because I lost all the time. The boys had me figured out. I had a tell of some kind. Hell, they’d laugh about it. Of course they wouldn’t tell me what it was.”

“I know your tell. Uncle Baldy told me. You pat your flask when you’re lying. Just like you’re doing now.”

Buford’s arms dropped. He didn’t say anything.

“Dad,” said Wes. “Did you ever love my Mom?”

The compressor turned with a racket. A hose attached to the Redemption device popped off and began hissing a swinging wildly. It slapped a breaker panel with a loud clatter and threatened the exposed circuitry. Buford jumped up.

“Crap,” he shoulted. He jumped up and wrestled with the hose until he had secured the flailing end. He carried it to the compresser and turn a valve lever.

“These hoses are pretty old. Tomorrow I’ll check all the connectors. Come to think of it, better start that now.”

“Ok,” said Wes. “I need to work on some homework.”

“We waslked to the door while Buford piddled at hose fittings. Wes opened the door to leave. Buford stopped him. “Wes,” he said.

Wes turned.

“I loved you,” he said. “Loved you the minute your Mom told me you were coming. If I seemed sad to her, it’s because figured you were gonna come to hate me. I figured she’d see to that.”

“Night, Dad,” said Wes.

A social worker arrives at the farm to assess Buford’s fitness as a parent.

Chickpokolypse and the laying hens lure the serpent to the shop, but the animals are unable to figure out how to fire the machine. However, they nearly succeed in defeating Drualissa anyway. She is saved by Blind Marnie.

Buford participates and does something heroic. A robotic arm grabs the serpent by the tail. Some twist with the gyro ball?

Druallissa wraps herself around Buford and nearly kills him.

The social worker leaves traumatized over the carnage created in the battle between the farm animals and Drualissa. Wes goes into DCS custody.

Blind Marnie and the wild boars deplete the orchard of Truffles. She locks them away in her cellar.

With help from his cousins, Wes steals the truffles out of Blind Marnie’s cellar. Blind Marnie, summons a starling wraith to get revenge. But she loses control over it and it eats the truffles.

On Christmas, Buford visits Wes at a group home. They resolve issues in their relationship. Blind Marnie has a change of heart. Her control over Drualissa and invasives show signs of weakening.

Wes returns to the farm. He and the farm animals plot to steal the truffles from Blind Marnie’s cellar.

Blind Marnie has a moment of regret over the harm she has done. Her control over the invassives shows signs of weakness.

The auction date for the farm looms near. Wes and the farm animals raid Blind Marnie’s cellar and steal the truffles.

Blind Marnie’s heart returns to darkness. She conjures a starling wraith to exact revenge. But she can’t control it. It flies to Mosey’s to destroy the truffles.

The family comes together to battle the starling wraith. With the redemption device, Buford is able to defeat it. But too many of the truffles are lost.

Chickpokalypse goes to the wild hogs to convince them to find more, but they laying hens unexpecadely show up. That causes the hogs to come under chickpokalpyses chase spell and they pursue her.

Wesley is confronted by Drualissa and is in grave peril. Chickpocalypse leads the wild hogs to them and a terrible fight breaks out between Druallissa and the hogs. Drualissa is killed.

Bofore uses his remarkable ability to retrieve more truffles. The peasnipe lead him to truffles by difving into the ground. He digs in the spot where they disappeard and at each one finds a truffle. The farm is saved but buford dies. Horace escorts him to the next world and the peasnipe take wing. Turns out they can fly afterall.

The farm gets foreclosed upon. The day before the auction, the animals steal the truffles blind Marnie collected and pile them up in the yard. Someone estimates their value at more than enough to pay off the note. Blind Marnie loses control of her starlings descent to eat them. The family unites to fight them off. They save some of the truffles, but not enough of them to pay off the note.

The night before the Auction. The effort to raise enough money to save the farm has failed. The family prepares to leave the farm. A football game is on the radio. Their beloved Nashvanooga State Biting Possums fall down 48-21 with a minute and a half left. They turn the game off and go to bed.

At the auction the next day, Baldy Hooper pays off the note. We hear the game announces over the radio.

“And with that field goal, the Tech goes ahead 53-21. This game has turned into a route.

“That’s right, Earl, the celebration is if full swing on the Tech sideline. And here’s the gatoraide getting poured over the head of the tech coach.”

“Wait a minute! There’s something going on now on the Tennessee sideline. There appears to be some kind of a celebration going on there, too. A man in a straw hat and overalls has somehow gotten onto the field. There’s a man with him and the players have gathered round that man, and boy, Earl, do they seem happy!”

One of the men is wearing overalls and a staw had and the other … Earl! That’s coach Rusty Banks! Coach Hughes is no longer on the field and the players have rallied around Rusty Banks. I don’t think I know that player he’s putting in at kicker.”

“That’s Wayne Teefteller. He’s a walk-on safety, a graduate of Fissionbury High School. I think he’s going to try an onside kick.”

“They’ll need this one and two more to have any chance of wnning this game.”